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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of : May 21, 2001
V. Castelli, et al : Group Art No.: 2172
Serial No. 09/237,646 : Examiner: C. Truong
Filed: January 26, 1999 : for IBM Corporation
Anne Vachon Dougherty
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS 3173 Cedar Road
FOR SIMILARITY RETRIEVAL Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
FROM ITERATIVE REFINEMENT

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2000 for the above-identified patent application. The response is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time for a period of two months, along with the requisite fee. The period for response is now set to expire on May 21, 2001 and this is a response within the two month extension period.

In response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2000, the Applicant wishes to submit the following remarks:

YO998-220